

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

Please delete the original abstract and insert therefore the following:

Various processes for heating semiconductor wafers is disclosed. In particular, the present invention is directed to configuring light sources emitting light energy onto a wafer in order to optimize absorption of the energy by the wafer. Optimization is carried out by varying the angle of incidence of the light energy contacting the wafer, using multiple wavelengths of light, and configuring the light energy such that it contacts the wafer in a particular polarized state. In one embodiment, the light energy can be emitted by a laser that is scanned over the surface of the wafer.